

The allotment of time for the discussion of demands.

President.—We have carried over the head “Excise” from yesterday; also Customs, and so these two heads have to be disposed of first. Then we have got four heads for consideration to-day, viz., “Medical”, “Vaccination”, “Sanitation and Conservancy” and “Miscellaneous”. If it is possible to get through all these items, I would like to do it. I would accordingly allot 1½ hours for “Excise”.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—As regards the Medical Department, we have only two questions.

President.—So I need not be anxious about the time-limit.

Explanation of non-official position in regard to the cut motions passed.

President.—Now, in regard to the cut motions carried by the House yesterday and the day previous to it, I shall make my position clear. Referring to the cut motions carried by the House yesterday, in regard to the reduction of 40 thousand rupees by Rs. 20,000 on account of the construction of a paying ward in the Ernakulam General Hospital, I was not quite able to understand whether the cut was intended to show that the ward might be constructed at a less expense, or whether the ward itself is not necessary. I want to know this, because I, as the Diwan, have to do something; I have to exercise my power when allotments are reduced or omitted. Of course, Mr. Kochunni Menon was the mover of this particular motion. I want to be clear on the point. The thing is whether the amount proposed to be spent is too much; of course, at the time you sent the cut, you were under the impression that only 40 thousand would be required for the ward. In the course of the discussion, the Chief Engineer pointed out that Rs. 40,000 represented only a part of the expenditure, the total cost being a lakh and odd rupees. I want to know what I am to do with these 20 thousand rupees, because, as matters now stand, out of the Rs. 40,000 provided for, only 20,000 has been allowed by the House. Is the Government to utilise this amount for the construction of the ward or not? That is the question.

The same argument applies to the cut motion in regard to the music shed also. Of course, with regard to the opening of additional classes and other things, we can manage with the amount allowed. The amount asked for was Rs. 5,000; there was a reduction of Rs. 2,000. With the remaining amount of Rs. 3,000, we will carry on the opening of new classes. But here there is a special difficulty as to how the amount is to be utilised. From the nature of the discussion carried on yesterday, I was led to think that no music hall was necessary. What is the Government to do with the Rs. 5,000 sanctioned? I want to make